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03 FEB. 2005

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

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NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

01.02.2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference
207352/EP/pr

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/NL 03/00234International filing date (day/month/year)
27.03.2003Priority date (day/month/year)
27.03.2003Applicant
ZILVOLD, Hendrik Martin

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.
4. **REMINDER**

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

Name and mailing address of the international
preliminary examining authority:

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 207352/EP/pr	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/NL 03/00234	International filing date (day/month/year) 27.03.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 27.03.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC C25B15/00		
Applicant ZILVOLD, Hendrik Martin		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
- These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the opinion
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 25.10.2004	Date of completion of this report 01.02.2005
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Del Piero, G Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8579 

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JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 27 SEP 2005

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/NL 03/00234

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17):*

Description, Pages

1-8

as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-4

as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/3-3/3

as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

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**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**International application No. **PCT/NL 03/00234**

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-4
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-4
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-4
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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V.

Clarity.

The exact constructional relationship between the "cell partition" and the relevant components of the cell stack does not unambiguously transpire from the wording of current claim 1.

In this connection, the expression "cell partition being present between the cathode and the anode" is misleading in the present context.

In actual fact, having regard to present figs. 1 and 2 and the relevant parts of the description, said "partition" would seem to be an intercell partition provided between the respective cathode and anode of adjacent cells in the stack.

Novelty and inventive step.

Only under the above assumption and with the exception of EP-A-1 298 231 (see below), the apparatus according to the present claims would seem to be neither disclosed in nor fairly suggested by the state of the art on record.

The acknowledged US-A-5 082 543 is regarded as representing the most pertinent prior art in that it discloses an electrolytic cell stack for the production of e.g. perhalogenate compounds in which thermal control of the process is effected by the provision of channels for supplying and removing cooling water to and from the anode compartments.

In contrast thereto, the coolant channels according to the invention are in direct connection with the pool of coolant in which the cell stack is immersed and, being provided inside the intercell connector, preclude any contact between the coolant and the electrolyte and/or electrode, whereby the coolant is not under the influence of an electric voltage.

The possibility of controlling the temperature level of the stack at the locations at which the thermal deviation is more critical (the centre of the cell package) justifies the acknowledgment of an inventive step.

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**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
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Other matters.

The subject-matter of the totality of the present claims is disclosed in EP-A-1 298 231, published on 02.04.03 (i.e. after the present filing date) and claiming the priority date of 01.10.01, (i.e. prior to the present priority date).

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